

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 11 through 13 are pending, with Claim 11 being independent. Claims 16 through 22 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 11 has been amended.

Claims 11 through 14 and 16 through 22 again were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over previously-cited US 2003/0144377 A1 (Sano, et al.). Claim 25 was objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of Claim 11 to include the features of objected-to Claim 25.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR ENTRY OF AMENDMENT

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application — since the amendment to Claim 11 constitutes rewriting Claim 25 in independent form. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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